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Extension Service - United States Department of Agriculture

WARTIME EXTENSION WORK

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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Production and conservation activities in Food Fights for Freedom program; war-time contributions of 4-H Club members; and reports on Victory Gardens and farm labor are high lights of the week's summary.

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KENTUCKY

November 15, 1943

Home preservation and conservation.--Annual reports show Kentucky homemakers had profitable year, placing emphasis on food preservation, conservation of clothing, and general improvement in homes. Home nursing and health programs were important part of year's work.

Canning done will surpass that of last year when women in the 62 counties that have home agents put up 5,682,940 quarts of fruit, vegetables, and meat. Typical 1943 reports: In Calloway County 115 members of homemakers' clubs canned 5,572 quarts of tomatoes and tomato juice, 12,586 quarts of vegetables other than tomatoes, 19,161 quarts of fruit, and dried 3,709 pounds of fruits and vegetables. In Perry County 90 homemakers canned 14,854 quarts of vegetables and fruits, 2,338 quarts of fruit juices, 1,882 jars of jellies, preserves, and relishes.

Many individual women made unusual records. Mrs. Ike Crawford, 75 years old, of Calloway County, helped her husband to grow and sell \$700 worth of flowers. She also helped in garden, canned 200 quarts of food, raised 200 chickens.

A 3/4-acre Victory Garden that produced vegetables for 508 quarts of canned products and \$218.75 in cash is reported from Hickman County. Vegetables were sold to local stores, and money was invested in war bonds.

In Fleming County 53 women enrolled in Women's Land Army in 1 month.

Conservation on farms.--Increased milk production resulted from war conservation practiced by O. C. Ramsey of Montgomery County. He repaired old pit ice house to use for silage, and fixed up 20-year-old truck to do hauling and to furnish power. Ensilage cutter he used is about 30 years old and was brought back into service with a few repairs.

4-H Clubs.--Invaluable contribution to war food production was made by 6,684 members of 4-H Clubs in 105 counties of State. Ranging in age from 10 to 20 years, they contributed total of 1,073,031 hours of emergency farm labor service, or over 100,000 ordinary farm work days. Hundreds of girls took over housework while mothers worked outdoors. Other girls worked in fields driving tractors, running other machinery, helping plant and harvest crops, doing chores, tending livestock, and taking place of general farm hands.

Anne Deutsch of Jefferson County worked 255 hours in fields to help her brother run farm while their father worked in defense plant. In her regular 4-H project work, she was county clothing champion.

Carlos R. Scott, 15, of Christian County, worked total of 1,057 hours preparing land, setting tobacco, planting corn, cultivating crops, cutting alfalfa, fixing fence, doing chores, carrying wood, and was general all-round hand from April to October.

Hybrid corn.--Farmers generally report good success with hybrid corn, in spite of drought. One Nelson County field of Kentucky 103 hybrid corn produced 107 bushels an acre; another field, 98 bushels. Farmer in Warren County stated he could have made money on his hybrid corn even had he paid \$1.00 a bushel for seed. His hybrid corn produced twice as much to acre as common varieties.

Labor.--Labor assistants devoted efforts during past month to locating and placing tenants and obtaining labor for harvest of corn, hemp, and soybeans. In Ohio River area, German prisoners of war were used in two counties. Reports from farmers indicate prisoners husked from 240 to 450 bushels of corn a day. Rate of pay has been lowered from \$2.50 to \$1.75 plus transportation.

WYOMING

November 1, 1943

Labor.--Harvesting of crops is about complete in all sections of State except three counties where less than 15 percent of best crop is still in ground. No crops have been lost because of lack of labor. Beets, beans, and potatoes, vital to war food effort, are now safe. Prison labor has not proved quite so satisfactory as free labor in beet fields. Putting in more men brought about slow but sure harvesting of beets. All Oklahoma laborers have been returned to their homes, and Mexican nationals are on the way. In most counties a few experienced ranch workers are needed for permanent jobs. For remainder of year labor for livestock will be chief need, and ranchmen are now getting winter help lined up.

Food Fights for Freedom.--Wyoming Extension representatives participated in Food Fights for Freedom conference in Salt Lake City that they might better understand program and what is to be responsibility of Extension. Already, considerable work has been done on program by different agencies concerned in Wyoming. Not all towns are carrying on campaigns for Home Front Pledge because of lack of organization. In one town, Rock Springs, house-to-house canvass brought 6,000 homemakers to sign pledge. State nutrition committee will supervise Food Fights for Freedom program. Wyoming extension agents will carry "Produce, conserve, share, play fair" idea to all communities in rural districts. Wyoming papers

are running full-page displays of Food Quiz feature, sponsored by merchants. County nutrition committees are beginning to sponsor program through schools. Mayors of Wyoming towns are issuing special proclamations calling attention to program. All organized women's clubs in counties are being asked to sponsor some kind of appropriate program. Parent-teacher associations to, are giving proper observance.

Victory Gardens.-Survey just completed shows 15,730 town gardens planted and cultivated during 1943 season, and 10,864 farm gardens, or total of 26,644. Area of farm gardens is estimated at 6,658 acres. At least 1,000 gardens are believed to have been planted by new gardeners.

